



(4310-O2-P)

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

#### **Tribal Listening Sessions on Sacred Sites on Federal Lands**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Indian Affairs will conduct listening sessions with Indian tribes to obtain oral and written comments concerning sacred sites located on Federal lands. See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this notice for details.

**DATES:** See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this notice for the dates of the tribal listening sessions. We will consider all comments received by close of business on September 21, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this notice for the locations of the tribal listening sessions. Submit comments by e-mail to: [consultation@bia.gov](mailto:consultation@bia.gov) or by U.S. mail to: Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, attn.: Dion KILLSBACK, Mail Stop 4141 MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dion KILLSBACK, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, (202) 208-6939.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

The Department, through the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, intends to develop policy to strengthen the protection of sacred sites on Federal lands. For many

years the Department has received input on sacred sites and to that end, the Department is seeking input specific, but not limited to, the following topics regarding sacred sites

- Meanings of sacred sites and whether the Department should attempt to define the term “sacred site”;
- Personal views of existing Departmental practices or policies, if any, that should be revised to protect sacred sites and steps necessary to make appropriate revisions;
- Potential development of Departmental practices or policies to protect sacred sites;
- How the Department should facilitate tribal access to sacred sites;
- How the Department should control and grant access to tribally provided information regarding sacred sites;
- Whom the Department should include (recognized leaders of tribal government, tribal spiritual leaders, et.al.) in determining whether a site is considered “sacred” by a tribe.

Tribal listening sessions will be held at the following dates and locations:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
August 13, 2012	1 p.m. – 4 p.m.	BIA Southwest Regional Office Pete V. Domenici Building 1001 Indian School Road Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

(505) 563-3103

August 16, 9 a.m. – 12 Holiday Inn-Grand Montana-Billings  
2012 p.m. 5500 Midland Road  
Billings, Montana 59101  
(406) 248-7701

August 23, 1 p.m.- 4p.m. Mystic Lake Casino Hotel  
2012 2400 Mystic Lake Boulevard  
Prior Lake, MN 55372  
(952) 445-9000

August 24, 9 a.m. – 12 Mohegan Sun Casino  
2012 p.m. 1 Mohegan Sun Boulevard  
Uncasville, Connecticut 06382  
(860) 862-7311

Dated: July 27, 2012

Donald E. Laverdure  
Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

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